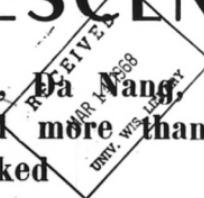


VIETNAM COURIER

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THE WHOLE OF SOUTH VIET NAM IN EFFERVESCENCE

- In 3 Days, Saigon, Da Nang, Hue, 60 Other Urban Centres and more than 20 U.S. and Puppet Bases Attacked
- Successive Uprisings of the Urban and Rural Populations
- Setting Up of the "Alliance of National Forces for Independence and Peace" Which Calls on the People to Rise Up and Overthrow the Traitors' Power



EDITORIAL

FOR months, Johnson and Westmoreland have been repeating that the "Viet Cong" decimated by terrible blows from U.S. forces, are panting for breath, that the South Viet Nam people are gradually rallying around the "destitute" government of Saigon, that the four-stage war plan of the U.S. Command is progressing as predicted by the Pentagon's electronic brains.

And yet, the whole of South Viet Nam is now abhorr! In Saigon, U.S. forces are unable to defend even the U.S. embassy, reputed impregnable. Over 60 urban centres and almost all U.S. and puppet air bases, for three days running, are fiercely attacked by the same "Viet Cong" thought to be near exhaustion. U.S. and puppet forces in control of important cities suffer serious losses, while many of their material and logistical installations are destroyed.

The U.S. Command had carried its inhumanity and arrogance to the point of shortening, then abolishing altogether the "traditional" Tet truce: now it is receiving a deserved punishment.

Numerous units of the puppet army, which Westmoreland said were being consolidated, have mutinied or rallied the people's forces. The puppet army and administration painstakingly propped up by dint of dollars and electoral forces are collapsing.

The people of towns and cities, in an irresistible general uprising, have broken the military and police vice in which they were caught; they are now hunting down traitors, torturers, fiendish U.S. agents, and U.S. aggressors, killing the popular armed forces. Revolutionary and patriotic committees, guerrilla and self-defense groups are being rapidly formed. The U.S. Command is reduced to sending commandos against populous quarters of Saigon and Hue, thereby showing its barbary and powerlessness.

In Washington, Johnson spends sleepless nights, repeating to the National Security Council without being able either to correctly assess the situation or to take an appropriate decision. Both the civilian and military leaders are bewildered, and all the strategizing on the "destitute" inflicted on the Vietnamese patriots cannot hide the fact that the U.S. Command has lost all control of the situation.

- The Puppet Administration Shattered in Vast Regions

- N.F.L. Order to the Armed Forces and People: "Let's All March Forward to Wipe Out the U.S. Aggressors and the Thieu-Ky Glique!"

- The People's Forces Control Many Cities and Towns Including Hue, Nha Trang, Da Lat, Ben Tre and Saigon Main Wards

(Continued page 7)

THE WHOLE OF SOUTH VIET NAM IN EFFERVESCENCE

- Revolutionary Forces Launch Powerful Attacks Everywhere
- Puppet Administration Shattered in Vast Regions
- The Enemy Suffers Particularly Heavy Losses

SAIGON: The U.S. Embassy, the "Presidential" Palace, the Superintendence of Police, the H.Q. of Puppet Inter-Arms Command and Navy, the "National" Radio and Tan Son Nhat Airbase Violently Attacked.

THE revolutionary forces began their attacks toward 3 a.m. on Jan. 31, 1968, so they could occupy five stories of the U.S. Embassy building and penetrate into the heart of the "Independence" Palace. The H.Q. of the puppet Inter-Arms Command was taken by the Saigon Broadcasting Station entirely destroyed. Many sectors of Tan Son Nhat airbase were controlled by the revolutionary forces and reduced to Saigon. The H.Q. of the Marines and paratroopers and the Saigon military sector were violently assaulted.

The people have come out onto the streets to demonstrate against the Thieu-Ky regime and the U.S. aggressors, and hunt cruel agents. Meetings of selected workers, traders and industrialists were held to discuss the programme worked out by the newly set up "Alliance of National, Democratic and Independent Peace." Many town wards of Saigon — Gia Dinh — Cho Lon were under the control of the revolutionaries.

The Yankees and their quislings unleashed their planes against many quarters of the city. Their casualties

were high: at the U.S. Embassy, for instance, at least 200 Yankees were killed or wounded, according to Western agencies.

HUE: The P.L.A.F., Revolutionary Armed Forces and Inurgent Population Control the City and Repel all Enemy Counter-Attacks; Many U.S. and Puppet Units Wiped Out.

FTER 35 minutes of fighting, the revolutionary forces got control of the city at 6:30 a.m. (local time) and fell into the hands of the revolutionaries. Over 2,000 persons detained in the provincial prison were set free after an attack of the P.L.A.F. Division 1 was stormed. The local radio station was taken under control. Puppet Armoured Regiment 1 stationed in the city was wiped out. The old imperial citadel and many barracks of the puppet fell into the hands of the revolutionaries. Many sectors of the city for Days Run. At Least 70 U.S. Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged on Jan. 30.

DA NANG: The Airbase and Helicopter Parking Ground Violently Poundred Many Times. The Revolutionary Forces Occupy Many Quarters of the City for Days Run. At Least 70 U.S. Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged on Jan. 30.

HE 30,000 U.S. Marines and South Korean marines in the city, the great number of puppet troops could not prevent the P.L.A.F. and revolutionary armed forces from breaking into the city of 150,000 and striking at the biggest U.S. base in South-East Asia. The population took

Many district capitals were liberated such as Lac Thien and Buon Ho.

Da Lat, a big town and mountain resort, was liberated on the night of Jan. 31. The administrative offices, the "Summer Palace" of the dragon, officials and provincial organs were seized unscathed.

In the coastal provinces of Central and South Vietnam, the H.Q. of puppet Infantry Division 2, of the military sector in Quang Ngai town, and the airfield (3km from the town) were completely under the control of the revolutionary forces after seized unscathed.

At the same day, Qui Nhon, provincial capital of Binh Dinh, built on a hill, was seized by units of South Korean mercenaries who attacked.

The local radio station was seized. The enemy suffered heavy losses and withdrew in hot haste. The chopper parking field of U.S. First Air Mobile Division at Bong Son was seized.

Tuy Hoa, capital of Phu Yen province, was seized on the night of Jan. 30, as well as many district capitals.

(Continued page 6)

At Saigon Army H.Q.

HE puppet army H.Q. attacked at the very start of the popular uprising in Saigon was entirely occupied on February 1. The following report by a participant in the operation and released by Giai Phong Radio deals with the first phase of the attack. — Ed.

HE short briefing made by Ba, commanding officer of the 800-strong garrison so as to enable our friendly units to perform their respective tasks.

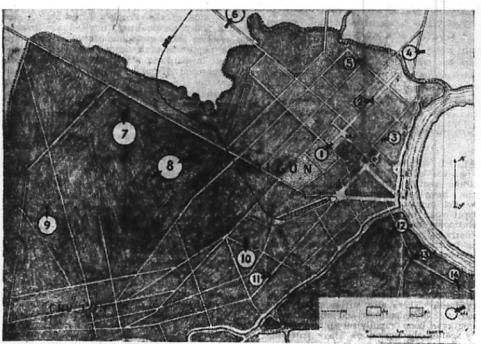
None of us seemed to be impressed by the short briefing. We were filled with joy. To-night, we should have the high honour of attacking the puppet army H.Q. set up in the northern suburbs of Saigon. We were to give the signal for simultaneous attacks on enemy positions in the Saigon-Cholon area, pinning down the 800-strong army garrison so as to enable our friendly units to perform their respective tasks.

None of us seemed to be impressed by the short briefing made by Ba, commanding officer of the 800-strong garrison so as to enable our friendly units to perform their respective tasks.



Situation up to February 1, 1968

According to additional information supplied by Giai Phong Press Agency, the following towns should be mentioned in category (a) representing provincial capitals attacked by the revolutionary forces (from North to South): Quang Ngai, Da Lat, An Loc (Binh Long), Phan Rang, Tay Ninh, Thu Dau Mot, Phan Riet, Moc Hoa, Tan An, Cao Lanh, Ba Ria, Bac Lieu.



OPERATIONS IN SAIGON-CHOLON IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE UPRISING (Arrows show enemy positions attacked)

- (1) Thieu-Ky "Presidential" Palace
- (2) U.S. Embassy
- (3) U.S. puppet Ministry
- (4) U.S. puppet Marine Corps
- (5) Saigon Broadcasting Station
- (6) H.Q. of Puppet Inter-Arms Command
- (7) Military quarters
- (8) H.Q. of Saigon Radio-Television
- (9) Race-course
- (10) Police Superintendence
- (11) Saigon Police HQ
- (12) Central Station
- (13) Cathedral
- (14) Townhall
- (15) Municipal Cinema
- (16) Central Market
- (17) Cao Dai Temple
- (18) Townhall
- (19) Police Superintendence
- (20) Central Station
- (21) Cathedral
- (22) Townhall
- (23) Zoological and Botanical Garden
- (24) Wharves

Guiding Marks: (A) Central Station, (B) Central Market, (C) Municipal Cinema, (D) Cathedral, (E) Townhall, (F) Zoological and Botanical Garden, (G) Wharves.

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neutralized four guard posts with a few bursts of gunfire. The engagement began immediately. A minute later, the second group commanded by Ba joined in action. Entrances No 5 and 6 were taken and puppet troops were captured. The second group was neutralized. Entrances No 7 and 8 were captured. Trucks full of G.I.'s driving past the entrance were hit by our A.T. shells. She also proved to be a good shot. Every combatant competed in skillfulness and gallantry.

Thus, in spite of its numerical inferiority, our unit could capture a key position, entrants No 5 and 6 after ten hours running. We pinned down the enemy who, after vainly counter-attacking us, suffered 400 casualties. Our mission was successfully carried out. We advanced into neighbouring quarters, waiting for other missions.

INITIAL BALANCE-SHEET OF THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE PEOPLE'S UPRISING IN SOUTH VIET NAM

From January 30 to February 1, 1968, the revolutionary forces:

— Hammered at 33 towns and provincial capitals and 31 urban centres and district capitals in 32 provinces;

— Attacked or controlled 35 key organs and bases of the U.S. and quislings, including the "Presidential" palace, the U.S. Embassy, the H.Q. of Inter-Arms Command, the H.Q. of Saigon special region, the Police H.Q., the H.Q. of puppet Marines, the H.Q. of puppet paratroops, the H.Q. of four army corps and many division H.Q.s and regiment C.P.

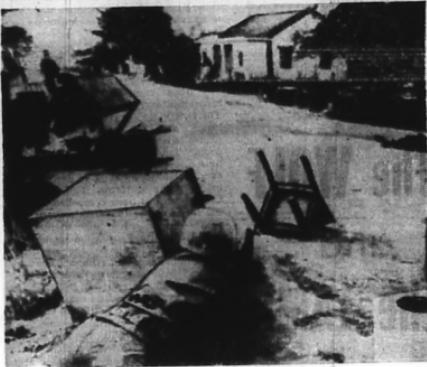
— Stormed almost all the 24 airbases and airfields (at least 130 planes and helicopters were destroyed on the airfields of Da Nang and Vinh Long alone).

— Attacked or occupied 5 broadcasting stations in the cities and many radio stations in smaller towns.

— Paralyzed completely many communication lines such as Highway No 1 (section between Quang Tri and Da Nang), Highway No 4 from Saigon to the provinces in the Mekong Delta.

Battalion 3, Regiment 33, puppet Division 21 passed to the side of the insurgents.

U.S. puppet
troops beaten
a retreat in Da
Nang, under the
attack of the
revolutionary
forces.



THE FOREIGN PRESS AND THE RECENT EVENTS IN SOUTH VIET NAM

THE successful repeated attacks launched by the South Viet Nam revolutionaries against the U.S. and quisling armed forces and people since Jan. 30, 1968 against enemy bases, have had a great repercussion in the world.

in the heart of the refuge of the aggressors, fighting street battles in the major towns as well as in the jungle."

Rodong Shimanee (P.D.R. of Korea) praised in its Feb. 1 issue the brilliant victories of the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. and people who "have delivered staggering blows at the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys by launching powerful attacks everywhere."

Zeri I Populit (Albania) wrote in its Jan. 31 issue, "These lightning attacks which the Pentagon could not anticipate have further increased panic, confusion and demoralization among the ranks of the U.S. aggressors. The Albanian people wholeheartedly greet the new brilliant victories of the heroic South Viet Nam people. We assure the brave fighters of South Viet Nam that we will always be on their side till final victory against the common enemies—the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their henchmen."

The paper said that "these operations testify fully to the capability of the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. and people to wipe out any enemy position." In conclusion it underlined that "the Vietnamese people will defeat the U.S. aggressors and will surely fulfill their task of national liberation."

Granma (Cuba) deviated the front page of its recent issue to report on the attacks launched by the patriotic armed forces and print the map of Saigon mentioning the offensive of the patriotic forces, chiefly on the U.S. Embassy and the "Independence" Palace, Thieu's residence. The paper carried an article with the following three-line title:

South Viet Nam Guerrillas!
Attack Saigon Still More
Powerfully! In this article, the paper stressed the severe punishment meted out by the N.F.L. to the saboteurs of the Lunar New Year truce.

Trybuna Ludu (Poland) wrote in its Feb. 1 editorial, "The well-prepared operations of the South Viet Nam patriots at present are a development of a large-scale offensive by the patriotic forces initiated in January this year, at the time and place and in the form of their choosing. Even American military commentators are at a loss to conceive how a new situation has emerged on the South Viet Nam battlefield. It is widely acknowledged that the patriotic forces are tying down the enemy combat forces in all provinces of South Viet Nam."

L'Humanité, organ of the French Communist Party, underlined that the recent attacks were the biggest offensive launched so far by the South Viet Nam armed forces. The patriots showed that they held the initiative everywhere, which makes it possible for them to decide where and when to fight and to keep the American command in "suspense."

Campuchia (Cambodia) wrote that "With a perfect co-ordination and a rare nation-wide command, those who are jealously named by the Yankees as 'the Cong' have shifted to a general offensive while the crack G.I.s are pinned down in the northernmost part of South Viet Nam as Khe Sanh and along the demilitarized zone."

"How can the U.S. military command and Saigon men explain this disaster? This time, given the psychological repercussions of the operation, it is a Dien Bien Phu to the 10th power" the paper went on and stressed the impotency of the Johnson clique in face of the powerful attacks of the patriotic forces in South Viet Nam.

Mali Radio broadcasted on Jan. 31, 1968 "The new attacks of the Liberation Armed Forces show the magnificent heroism of the Liberator Front and the strength of the N.F.L. They show that the Front has enjoyed the unstinted support of the entire people and is a powerful and invincible political and military organization."

AFP on Jan. 31 said, "Complete surprise, doubtless in the effectiveness of the U.S. military strength in Saigon and the rest of Viet Nam, such is the reaction of American competent circles to the news about the violent combats that have erupted in the very heart of Saigon."

"The occupation, even temporary but with comparative ease, of the American 'Embassy' gardens, this fortress said to be impregnable, is a harsh blow at the pride of the American government leaders." Ed.)

Reuter added colours to these remarks, "The size and ferocity of the co-ordinated attacks in Saigon and other key South Vietnamese centres took the U.S. and its allies badly by surprise."

Pravda (U.S.S.R.) wrote on January 31 that "the recent attacks against the U.S. and quisling forces against scores of cities and towns and main U.S. military bases in South Viet Nam exposed the allegations on the exhaustion of the N.F.L. forces spread in the U.S. press. The propaganda press has been quick to seize on the holding of the presidential elections." The Soviet paper went on, "The aggressors are more and more sinking in the quagmire of war without being able to find a way out. For instance, U.S. losses in South Viet Nam last year doubled those of 1966 and exceeded by one-third those of the last 5 years put together. Meanwhile, as reported at the January 31st session of the Presidency of the C.C. of the N.F.L., last year the Liberation forces were considerably strengthened and equipped. The Pentagon also admits this."

Pravda also pointed out that "Washington and its henchmen in Saigon wanted to cover their defeat and conceal the scale of these defeats. The war escalation in Viet Nam will only drive the U.S. deeper into an impasse and will bring it nothing other than a bitter failure."

Izvestia (U.S.S.R.) wrote on February 1, "The recent events show that the South Viet Nam patriotic forces can operate successfully

Benmin Ribao said in its editorial of Feb. 2, "The recent attacks of the South Viet Nam people's armed forces and population during the first days of Tet Festival (Lunar New Year) are a due punishment meted out to the U.S. pirates who are widening their war of aggression and killing the Vietnamese people. These attacks confirm the invincible might of the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F."

"These new victories in spring have thrown Washington into an utter confusion."

The paper stressed, "The death throes of the U.S. aggressors are useless and must be resisted in the will of the heroic Vietnamese people who are resolute to resist the U.S. imperialists to win final victory."